

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (previously presented): An image forming system comprising:

image forming means that, in accordance with an image forming instruction, forms an image relating to subject data on a recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

detecting means that communicates with the RFID tag of the recording medium by radio frequency communication and reads the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

database means that, in accordance with the image forming instruction, obtains the identification information read by said detecting means from the RFID tag of the recording medium and forms a database of the subject data along with the obtained identification information, wherein, when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a first recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag by said image forming means in accordance with an image forming instruction, said database means obtains first identification information read by said detecting means from the RFID tag of the first recording medium and stores the first identification information and the subject data in association with each other in the database, and

when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a second recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag by said image forming means in

accordance an the image forming instruction, said database means obtains second identification information read by said detecting means from the RFID tag of the second recording medium and stores the second identification information in association with the subject data in the database;

retrieving means that detects the subject data from the database corresponding to the identification information of the recording medium read by said detecting means, at a timing later than when the image relating to the subject data is formed on the recording medium; and

control means that controls said image forming means to form an image relating to the subject data detected by said retrieving means on a recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag, said detecting means to read identification information from the RFID tag, and said database means to store the identification information in the database.

2. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means that is capable of selecting the subject data from plural subject data stored by ~~said~~ storing means.

3. (previously presented): A system according to claim 2, wherein at least a part of said image forming means, detecting means, storing means, selecting means, database means, and retrieving means are connected via a network.

4. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said detecting means includes a first detection unit for reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium in accordance with an image forming operation by the image forming means and a second detection unit for reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium at a timing different from the image forming operation by the image forming means, and

the first detection unit is provided in the vicinity of a moving path of the recording medium in the image forming operation, and the second detection unit is provided at a position where the second detection unit can read out the identification information in the case where the recording medium is brought close to the image forming means.

5. (canceled).

6. (original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the subject data includes image data.

7. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said image forming means, detecting means, database means, and retrieving means is connected via a network.

8. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said database means further stores additional information, which is related to an image

forming operation of the image of the subject data, in association with the subject data, and said retrieving means retrieves the subject data corresponding to the additional information in the case where information identical with the additional information is inputted at a timing independent from the image forming operation.

9. (original): A system according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes identification information of an apparatus and application software which executed the image forming operation for the image of the subject data.

10. - 18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented): An image forming method for an image forming system, comprising the steps of:

in accordance with an image forming instruction, forming an image relating to subject data on a recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

communicating with the RFID tag of the recording medium by radio frequency communication and reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

in accordance with the image forming instruction, obtaining the identification information read in said reading step from the RFID tag of the recording medium and forming a database of the subject data along with the identification information, wherein,

when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a first recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag in said image forming step in accordance with an image forming instruction, said database forming step includes obtaining first identification information read in said reading step from the RFID tag of the first recording medium and storing the first identification information and the subject data in association with each other in the database, and

when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a second recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag in said image forming step in accordance with an image forming instruction, said database forming step includes obtaining second identification information read in said detecting step from the RFID tag of the second recording medium and storing the second identification information in association with the subject data in the database;

detecting the subject data from the database corresponding to the identification information of the recording medium read in said communicating and reading step, at a timing later than when the image relating to the subject data is formed on the recording medium; and

controlling said image forming step to form an image relating to the subject data detected in said retrieving step on a recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag, said detecting step to read identification information from the RFID tag, and said database forming step to store the identification information in the database.

20. (previously presented): A method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

selecting the subject data from plural subject data stored in said subject data storing step.

21. (previously presented): A method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of said image forming step, detecting step, subject data step, selecting step, identification information storing step, and retrieving step is executed via a network.

22. (previously presented): A method according to claim 19, wherein said detecting step includes a first detection step of detecting the first identification information and a second detection step of detecting the second identification information, and

the first detection step is executed by a first detection unit provided in the vicinity of a moving path of the recording medium following an image forming operation, and the second detection step is executed by a second detection unit provided at a position where the second detection unit can read out the second identification information in the case where the recording medium is brought close to the image forming means.

23. (canceled).

24. (original): A method according to claim 19, wherein the subject data includes image data.

25. (previously presented): A method according to claim 19, wherein at least one of said image forming step, detecting step, identification information storing step, and retrieving step is executed via a network.

26. (previously presented): A method according to claim 19, wherein said identification information storing step includes storing additional information, which is related to an image forming operation for the image of the subject data, in association with the subject data, and

said retrieving step further includes retrieving the subject data corresponding to the additional information in the case where information identical with the additional information is inputted at a timing independent from the image forming operation.

27. (original): A method according to claim 26, wherein the additional information includes identification information of an apparatus and application software which executed the image forming operation for the image of the subject data.

28. to 32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented): An image forming system comprising:
an image forming unit configured to, in accordance with an image forming instruction, form an image relating to subject data on a recording medium provided

thereon with an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

a detecting unit configured to communicate with the RFID tag of the recording medium by radio frequency communication and read the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

a database unit configured to, in accordance with the image forming instruction, obtain the identification information read by said detecting unit from the RFID tag of the recording medium and form a database of the subject data along with the obtained identification information, wherein,

when an image relating to the subject data is formed on a first recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag by said image forming unit in accordance with an image forming instruction, said database unit obtains first identification information read by said detecting unit from the RFID tag of the first recording medium and stores the first identification information and the subject data in association with each other in the database, and

when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a second recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag by said image forming unit in accordance with an image forming instruction, said database unit obtains second identification information read by said detecting unit from the RFID tag of the second recording medium and stores the second identification information in association with the subject data in the database;

a retrieving unit configured to detect the subject data from the database corresponding to the identification information of the recording medium read by said

detecting unit at a timing later than when the image relating to the subject data is formed on the recording medium; and

a control unit configured to controls aid image forming unit to form an image relating to the subject data detected by said retrieving unit on a recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag, said detecting unit to read identification information from the RFID tag, and said database unit to store the identification information in the database.

34. (canceled).